

U. S. TROOPS MAY SURROUND ITALY'S ARMY

U. S. Troops Kill German Soldier Who Refuses to Halt

WORLD-WIZARD SEEKS SAFETY THROUGH MAPS

Habits of Submarines Enter Into Spirit of Edison's Deductions.

By JOHN C. MELLET.

"We never thought of that." This is the answer official Washington has been giving for several days to a very pertinent question put by Thomas A. Edison.

Both question and answer became known last night, following Mr. Edison's visit to the city and interviews with various high government officials. It is well known that the great inventor has been working on the submarine problem, and rumors have had it that he has perfected plans for an invisible and undetectable ship. It develops now that, whether or not he has designed such a floating marvel, he has at least got to the root of the submarine problem.

Maps Operations of Submarines.

Just as any scientist gathers all his facts before attacking his problem, Mr. Edison asked for and received many weeks ago all data on submarine sinkings. Everything the State, War and Navy Departments had on ship losses, and all that could be gathered from the Shipping Board, allied embassies and elsewhere, was turned over to him.

Mr. Edison then retired to the seclusion of his laboratories to see what conclusions could be drawn from the great mass of evidence. On his return to Washington he brought, so it is said, not designs for undetectable ships, but a bundle of maps.

And his simple but disconcerting question.

It was intended to keep the nature of the maps secret, but they were shown to so many officials, high and low, naval, military and diplomatic, that a rough description of them leaked out. No military information may be set forth.

One map, it is learned, shows where ships have been sunk by submarines. Marks are set down for each ship lost. These marks for the great, equatorial triangles. The tip of one touches the western entrance to the English Channel, with the sides resting on the south of England and the coast of France. The tip of a second touches Queenstown, with its sides projecting out into the Atlantic, west and southwest. The tip of the third fits into the current of the Gulf Stream as it flows around the north coast of Ireland.

Having shown where the great majority of the sinkings took place, Mr. Edison turned his attention to the respective times of the sinkings. In the first triangle certain small percentage took place between midnight and dawn; a vastly larger percentage took place between dawn and afternoon; a smaller percentage took place between dusk and midnight. Mr. Edison specified on one map, the time-percentages of sinkings in each of his three great triangles.

Nighttime Natural Safeguard.

His final deduction was that by far the great majority of 90 per cent of the losses due to U-boats took place in the triangles, and that of this great majority, very nearly all over 85 per cent of the losses came in broad daylight. Armed with his figures and his maps, Mr. Edison at last.

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TWO PERSONS KILLED BY BOY BURGLARS

Three Youths Attempt Melodramatic Robbery in Brooklyn.

New York, Oct. 29.—Two persons are dead and two others are not likely to recover as the result of three youths attempting a lurid, melodramatic burglary in Brooklyn today. The dead are: Samuel Regensburg, who first opposed the burglars, and Hugh Davis, leader of the burglars. He was shot by a policeman while escaping through an elevator shaft.

U. S. KNEW PLOT OF GERMANY TO CORRUPT BRAZIL

State Department Refuses to Divulge Name of Spy Here.

The State Department has evidence in its hands to show that more persons than Count Luxburg, the German minister at Buenos Aires, were concerned with German intrigues and the transmission of military information to Germany through the Swedish charge in Argentina. It was admitted yesterday at the State Department that the dispatch telling of German plans to colonize and stir a revolt in Brazil were known here.

It was one of the so-called Luxburg telegrams.

Just who is connected with the new instance of devious diplomacy the State Department refuses to indicate. It is known, however, that the activities of South American diplomats here are being closely scrutinized.

The indications are that the State Department in handling this latest telegram has not sent it through Ambassador De Gama, Brazil's representative at Washington. There is no disposition to question the attitude of Brazil. Her declaration of war against Germany has been thoroughly justified by United States. But the prevalence of strong pro-German opinion in many circles there is well known. There has been an element in the Brazilian government that has consistently truckled to the German colonists.

U. S. Now Interested.

As long as Brazil remained neutral the United States was not concerned with this. Now, however, that she has become an ally, the United States will undoubtedly be anxious to see that all persons on its "grassy way" are free from pro-German entanglements.

It has been indicated before this that practically all of the information sent to Germany from the United States passed over the unincorporated commercial cables to America, where it was gathered by Luxburg and started for Berlin on its "grassy way" through the Swedish foreign office.

The Argentine Embassy here, and particularly Dr. Romulo S. Nason, the Argentine ambassador, are considered absolutely above suspicion of any knowledge or complicity in its traffic. Dr. Nason is regarded as one of the most meticulously correct diplomats in Washington. There are positive indications, however, that there was some diplomatic connivance here with the transmission of German information to Buenos Aires, and the indications were yesterday that the United States is going quietly to work to find out about it.

There could be no possibility of any trouble between the United States and Brazil over such an incident. The two countries are now allies in a common cause. Hence, it is believed here that any hint of the undesirability of any person in the Brazilian service would be promptly accepted in Rio de Janeiro.

NEW REVELATION IN MEANS TRIAL

Testimony Heard Against Alleged Slayer of Mrs. Maude A. King.

Concord, N. C., Oct. 29.—While the grand jury was examining witnesses for the State against Gaston B. Means today on the charge that he murdered Mrs. Maude A. King, the wealthy widow, an entirely new revelation was made through the arrival of James I. Ennis, a Chicago handwriting expert.

Mr. Ennis is to be used, it was stated, tonight, to support the claim that the second will of the late James C. King, from whom Mrs. King inherited a large fortune, was a forgery. State solicitor Hays Clement, who expects an indictment tomorrow, is planning to strengthen the circumstantial evidence he is to present against Means by an effort to prove the accused man had been in the act of getting rid of the widow. In this effort the second will of James C. King is expected to play a leading part.

The State will contend the second will was forged, in order to give Means further control of the widow's property. It was intimated tonight that a direct charge of forgery will be made against the prisoner.

Many other documents are to be offered in evidence, and a number of Chicago men are to testify, to support the State's contention that Means, acting as King's confidential adviser and executive friend, aided in dissipating her fortune. The fact that he alone was near Mrs. King when she died, and that the State's case is that it was his intent to have her on the way to avoid an accounting of the money he had handled, will be strongly used by Solicitor Clements, first, for the indictment of Means, and, if a true bill is found, at his trial later.

Doctor Charged with Murdering Brother

Richmond, Va., Oct. 29.—Dr. A. W. Chamberlain is held in the Henrico jail today awaiting a hearing on the charge of having killed his brother, Judge P. H. Chamberlain. The men came here three years ago from Iowa and lived in Goodland county. Last week the judge got a court judgment against his brother, and took a receipt. The judge was seized a hunt for him. Yesterday the torso was found buried on the farm. The head, arms and legs are still missing.

War Revenue Tax Will Affect Many Commodities Thursday

The man in the street will feel added burden of the war revenue taxes on Thursday. Some of the taxes going into effect today are:

- One cent on each 10 cents admission to theaters, movies, etc.
- Children under twelve pay a total of 1 cent tax.
- Eight per cent on passenger fares by rail and water, except on trips less than forty miles.
- Three per cent on freight charges.
- Ten per cent for berths, staterooms and seats on parlor cars or vessels.
- Ten per cent on club dues more than \$12 annually.
- One cent on each 25 cents charge for parcel post.
- One cent on each 20 cents express package charge.
- Five cents on each telephone, telegraph and radio message costing fifteen cents or more.
- Eight cents for every \$100 of life insurance.
- By Saturday the new postal taxes will go into effect. Letters will carry 3 cents in stamps instead of 2, and post cards will carry double the present number of stamps.
- The tobacco taxes actually go into effect Thursday, but dealers have been collecting this taxation for some time. Cigars are taxed \$1 to \$7 per 1,000 and cigarettes 80 cents to \$1.50 per 1,000.
- The liquor, soft drink, sporting goods, automobile, income, excess profits and other taxes have been in effect for a month or more.

6-WEEKS-OLD BABY IS FOUND IN WAGON

Capt Ernest Howard, of Seventh Engine Company, May Adopt Homeless Waif He Found Last Night.

A low and heart-rending wail attracted Capt. Ernest Howard, of the Seventh engine company of the District fire department, to divert his well-trodden homeward path late last night to an old deserted wagon in front of a stable at Sixth and L streets northeast, where the little chubby hands of a 6-weeks-old baby girl were stretched longingly out to him.

Capt. Howard picked up the little girl, who, according to him, was dressed like a little heiress. With no bedding the pretty baby had apparently been lying in the wagon for hours and had been drenched by the rain.

The Ninth police precinct was notified by Capt. Howard, but when police arrived on the scene Mrs. Howard was there and would not tolerate the baby's being taken to the precinct. So the homeless child was taken to their home at 25 K street northeast.

Both are anxious to adopt the well-dressed waif, but as Capt. Howard said, "I have eight children now, but my wife and I are considering adopting the child. She is as pretty as a picture, and in the best of health, and is now sleeping like a top with the mamas."

WILSON, TAFT, T. R. TRIPLETS ARE BORN

Mr. and Mrs. Riccobono, Proud Parents, Are Sure Chubby Sons Will Some Day Be "Greata" Presidents of U. S.

Wilson, Taft and Roosevelt were born yesterday.

They are not the present President of the United States and his two predecessors.

They are the bright, red-faced sons of Antineto and Giovanni Riccobono, a father is a shoemaker who industrially plies his trade every day in the National Capital.

And today in his little home on the outskirts of Washington he is the proud and happy father of squirming, smiling Wilson, Taft and Roosevelt triplets.

Local Americans.

And the three little Italian babies, that were born yesterday morning, were "interviewed" last night. They did not say much, but their expressions were translated as meaning that they were determined to be just as good Americans as the distinguished men whose names they bear.

"Why did you name your sons after Presidents?" the Italian hostess was asked.

"No, don't cause some day they too be big Presidents of America," was the answer.

Parents Happy.

The address of the happy father will not be disclosed, for on practically every occasion where triplets have been born to a lucky couple there have been scores of strangers flocking to the scene to satisfy their curiosity.

DIPLOMATS JOIN AN APPEAL TO SAVE FOOD

Ambassador Jusserand Says American Sacrifices Touch Heart of France.

Ambassador Jusserand, of France, last night joined in the appeal of the Food Administration to the families of the United States to unite in the conservation of food products so that the allies can have sufficient food to prosecute the war to victory.

"Nothing can more deeply touch the heart of France than the thought that thousands of miles away, of their own accord, obeying the free impulse of their kind thoughts, the American allies of former days and of today are keeping a severe watch on their food consumption so that invaded France and those leagues with her for a sacred cause may not suffer from want, and may better push back a barbaric enemy to where he belongs," (Signed) "JUSSERAND."

Must Aid Soldiers.

The Serbian Minister, L. Michalievitch, also adds his plea for his people, saying:

"I consider the efforts of the Food Administration in inaugurating the Food Pledge Week for the conservation of food as vitally important. However small the economy may be, if practiced in every family the saving of food will assure supplies for more soldiers and also save the distressed people from starvation, both of which are necessary for victory. We, who have come to the United States in order to seek food for our soldiers and people, can only say that we see our salvation if the appeal of this admirably organized Food Administration is successful and the proposed measure executed."

Lord Northcliffe, chairman of the British War Commission to the United States, made the following statement:

"The greatest food experts on both sides of the Atlantic say that there is a world shortage of food. The boys who are doing the hell of the trenches for our sake cannot hold out if ill-fed. The situation which we have to face right now in this food pledge week, is obvious. Either the stay-at-homes must save so that the soldiers may get their vital needs, or the soldiers must go without so that the stay-at-homes may fatten. You cannot have it both ways, and must make your choice."

WASHINGTONIANS TO HEAR SNOWDEN TRIAL

Jury Partially Impaired for Brandon Murder Case.

Annapolis, Md., Oct. 29.—Great crowds are expected to gather here tomorrow for the beginning of the trial of John Snowden, the negro charged with the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon, the young Washington woman who was murdered at her home in this city last August.

The influx of Washingtonians started at an early hour today, and continued throughout the earlier part of the night.

The greater part of today was taken up with the impelling of a jury. Selection of the men who will try the negro started at 12:40 o'clock and the venire of twenty-five was exhausted when six men had been chosen.

It is expected that a full jury will be selected before noon, and that the trial will start immediately afterwards. Those chosen yesterday are as follows:

Frank H. Rideout, Lewis T. McCarter, John Edward Stall, Robert Owens, Wiebar Petherbridge, Joseph O. Fowler.

"I feel absolutely certain that John Snowden and his other killed my wife in Annapolis August 5."

This was the statement today of Valentine Brandon, husband of the woman brutally slain here last summer, who came to Annapolis to help in the prosecution of the negro charged with the murder of Mrs. Lottie May Brandon.

The beginning of the trial, set for this morning, was postponed until this afternoon because of a celebration in Annapolis today incident to the departure of 104 negro draft recruits to Camp Meade.

One of the men seized was a well-to-do German. He was taken when dining in evening clothes. He told another diner about a big transport with thousands on board going down an hour after leaving port. He declared the newspapers did not dare print it.

Others of those interned have been spreading malicious rumors about famine and deplorable conditions in training camps.

BETTING HELD LEGAL.

New Orleans, La., Oct. 29.—The Louisiana State Supreme Court today held legal the individual betting system operated at the fair grounds last season. Under this system laymen operated with the assistance of bond stakeholders that the ruling practically legalized betting this year and means that the officials convicted last year will be freed.

AUSTRO-GERMAN RUSH UNCHECKED AS ITALIANS FIGHT HEROICALLY; GREATEST OF BATTLES EXPECTED

Allies Lose War if Lombardy Plain Is Swarmed, Says Official.

Italy in Great Need of Shells and Men

Germany Hopes to End the Struggle in One Colossal Stroke.

The Austro-German blow against Italy is autocracy's most tremendous and most crushing effort to win the war is one colossal stroke.

This was the direct assertion in official cables from Rome received here yesterday. The battle, it is said, is one of the greatest of the greatest world's war. In concentrated fury of attack it outtrials the Dunaiej, Verdun and the Somme.

Months of Preparation.

The two great powers of the Central Alliance—Germany and Austria—have been preparing for months for this one tremendous stroke. Undreamed of supplies of munitions and unsuspected numbers of men were concentrated for what the Teutonic autocracies hope will be the decisive action of the war.

To witness hoped-for fulfillment, both Teutonic emperors are at the battle front—Emperor William, to inspire his jaded troops, and Emperor Charles, in supreme command of his Austro-Hungarian armies. On the other side of the front a third ruler, King Emmanuel, of Italy, is exhorting his men to supreme sacrifices.

Thousands of Italian soldiers are accepting certain death in an effort to stem the Austro-German rush long enough for Italy's reserve armies to come up and take over the Tagliamento line in hopes of breaking the onslaught with their river defenses.

Every resource at German and Austria's command has been employed in this tremendous stroke. In Italian, Bulgarian and Turkish are represented by armies at what the Teutonic Emperors apparently hoped would be a decisive field of battle.

Thousands of the greatest of Krupp and Shoda guns were concentrated; hundreds of thousands of troops were brought up. And, working hand in hand, was the German secret service at its point of highest efficiency. It was "spy work," indeed, which dictated the moves of the German general staff. It was officially stated here that German spies in Italy were directly responsible for the selection of the Caporetto front as the main point of attack.

Gloom Is Intense.

By the nature of the ground and the vast peril to German troops of a river attack, it would have been madness to attack on this sector had not Germany had advanced information of Italy's weakness in guns and munitions. Furthermore, so convinced was the Italian general staff that no army would risk disaster by an attack violating of every tenet of military law and usage that the Caporetto front was defended only by terrorists. This also was made known to Germany by spies.

In order to hold Italy is massing every soldier she can mobilize. The Adriatic littoral is being stripped of men to enable the greatest effort to be made on the Tagliamento. The situation all along the coast has been left to the hands of the navy. The Italian and Austrian navies are about equal in strength, but in this moment of crisis English, French and Japanese warships are co-operating with the Italian in the defense of the coast.

Italy's peril is summed up in this statement, made in a high quarter yesterday:

"If we can't get guns and shells immediately we cannot hope to hold the Tagliamento. Civildale, our main northern base, is gone. Luckily we had time to blow up the depot, so, at least, the Germans and Austrians didn't get them."

"We were outnumbered 5 to 1. Every one has underestimated Germany's resources. As a result of a lengthy conference between Secretary of War Baker, and representatives of the Masons, Odd Fellows, and other fraternal orders, here yesterday."

The representatives sought to have the ruling altered which extends these privileges only to the Knights of Columbus and the Y. M. C. A. No decision was reached yesterday, but a representative committee of five will confer with the Secretary today to formulate a new plan.

Fraternal Societies Seek Change at Camp

There may be a change of policy regarding the privileges extended to fraternal orders at military cantonments, as a result of a lengthy conference between Secretary of War Baker, and representatives of the Masons, Odd Fellows, and other fraternal orders, here yesterday.

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U. S. SOLDIER KILLS GERMAN MESSENGER

He Stumbles Into Patrol.

Rome Recalls Cowardice Charge—Kaiser Speeding to Scene.

American Field Headquarters in France, Oct. 29.—The first German prisoner to be captured by the Americans was taken Saturday night, when a Teuton soldier stumbled into an American patrol while carrying messages.

He refused to halt and was shot. He died this morning in a field hospital. His captors are two Polish-Americans, one from Chicago and the other from Milwaukee.

London, Oct. 29.—All of the London newspapers devoted large first-page space to the firing of the initial shot by American troops at the French front.

The announcement was received with great enthusiasm by the American Congressional delegation here. They said it would carry profound satisfaction to the people of America. Telling of the event, the correspondent of the Weekly Dispatch says:

"The allies are extremely fortunate in having American troops take a share in the line at a comparatively quiet time of the year. During the winter they will have ample opportunity of mastering the intricacies of trench warfare which never can be met satisfactorily behind the lines. Within four or five months they should become seasoned troops, and the allies confidently look to a great display when they 'go over the top.'"

TEUTONS LAY WASTE TO WERDER MANOR

Burn City as They Further Retreat in Russia.

Petrograd, Oct. 29.—The German banding force which recently disembarked on Werder Peninsula has departed, the war office announced today. Before leaving they burned Werder Manor and gathered great stores of provisions which they took with them.

A new note of alarm was sounded by the officers of the Petrograd garrison who adopted a resolution saying they could no longer vouch for their troops. The resolution asserted the army's "irresponsibility is complete, in the face of the country's ruin."

A large number of Russian cities are under martial law to insure order. Premier Kerensky, and War Minister Verkhovsky are at headquarters discussing a plan to reorganize the army along racial lines.

Copenhagen, Oct. 29.—That the Germans will soon be compelled to evacuate the narrow Dismunde salient, between Dismunde and the Paschendorf Ridge, is the opinion expressed by Maj. Morath, military correspondent for the Berlin Deutsches Tages Zeitung. This salient includes the fortress of the British and French armies are now driving.

Maj. Morath, who often is in possession of correct information on German projects, says the British offensive through months of nibbling has bitten its way so deep—three and three-quarter miles into the German front anchored on Dismunde and Warstein that the salient is untenable and that the Germans will have to retire to a new fortified line across the base of the salient.

The writer comforts his readers with the assurance that this action will bring the British and French offensives, namely the capture of Ostend, and says the British and French offensive in Flanders therefore will be a catastrophic failure. He complacently accepts the highest German estimate of casualties of all kinds as permanent losses, though the Germans themselves count upon 75 per cent of their own wounded returning to field service.

Maj. Morath prepares his customary alibi for a reverse on the Aisne front by attributing to the French the intention of driving beyond Leon and upon Maubeuge and Brussels, and will call it a German victory if the French stop short of this imaginary goal.

Italians Didn't Quit.

The entire allied world had been plunged into anxiety and grief by yesterday's official Italian bulletin, which said that some Italian units "in cowardly retreat without fighting or surrendering to the enemy." A repetition of this Italian bluff.

Not alone Italy, but all the nations allied with her heaved a deep sigh of relief when the Rome War Office yesterday testified what is believed to have been a statement born of the bewilderment caused by the crushing initial Teuton blow.

They have succeeded in slowing up the Teuton sweep through the passes into the Venetian plains. But though its "break-through" momentum seems spent, and its speed has slackened, the Teuton machine rolls on relentlessly. Its center has reached the gates of Udine, where up to a few days ago Cadorna had his chief headquarters.

Fight Delays Big Battle.

Every dispatch from Rome, official and unofficial, concedes that the Italians are now fighting a delaying battle, that they must keep on retreating until they reach the line of the Tagliamento River, twenty miles from Udine.

On that line Italy, with every available man and gun and every ounce of energy will make her supreme stand. A second battle of the Marne is looked for. Upon its outcome rests the fate of Italy. In many quarters the belief prevails that it will decide the war.

Cadorna's Troops to Make Stand on Tagliamento River Line.

FLANK AND REAR OF ARMY IS THREATENED

Rome Recalls Cowardice Charge—Kaiser Speeding to Scene.

London, Oct. 29.—With death-defying valor, that has caused the Rome War Office promptly to recall its charges of "cowardice," the Italian armies east of the Isonzo, now fighting on Italian soil, are throwing themselves into the teeth of Mackensen's monstrous steam roller.

They have succeeded in slowing up the Teuton sweep through the passes into the Venetian plains. But though its "break-through" momentum seems spent, and its speed has slackened, the Teuton machine rolls on relentlessly. Its center has reached the gates of Udine, where up to a few days ago Cadorna had his chief headquarters.

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One Army Wiped Out.

Partly driven, partly threatened in the flank and rear, the entire 13-mile-long Italian battle line, from the Gulf of Trieste up to the Carnic Alps, is fleeing westward to reach the Tagliamento. One army, the Second, which held the lines between Tolmino and Fiume, where the "break-through" came, is virtually wiped out.

But two other armies in this retreating line are in extreme peril, namely, the Carro army and that in the Carnic Alps. Both are menaced with being completely cut off from every avenue of escape.

Cadorna's Carro army has only a "loophole" ten miles wide left to it, through to join the Gorizia army in the flight of the Tagliamento. The army on the Italian extreme left is threatened with being bottled up in the Carnic Alps.

Most ominous among the day's official claims is that from Berlin, to the effect that the city of Cormona, seven miles west of Gorizia, has been captured. Only five miles to the southeast of this point lies Gradisca. Between Gradisca and the Gulf of Trieste the Italian Carro army must make its escape.

There is a possibility that it got away before the Teutons could get its escape. Last official word from Rome regarding the Carro army was that it was bravely holding its own. That was two days ago. The Teuton advance has been so swift that grave fears are felt here for the safety of the great Italian army which in recent months covered itself with so much glory by its victories on the Carnic Alps.

Claim Corpsmen Capture.

Emperor William is reported speeding from Berlin toward the Venetia front to join his ally, Emperor Charles, who is in nominal command of the Teutonic offensive. There the two Kaisers plan to view the supreme clash between their armies and that of their erstwhile ally.

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